

Serial No.: 10/583,612 .

PU030327

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please substitute attached Replacement drawing sheets 1-3 for drawing sheets 1-3 filed in the application.

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Remarks

In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that the claims now pending in the application are not anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102, or obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

OBJECTIONS**A. Drawings**

The Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner indicates that the drawings must show every feature of the invention featured in the claims. Specifically, the mask 145 and mask frame 143 should be shown in FIGS. 5A, and 6A-6E.

Applicants have attached replacement drawings sheets 1-3. The replacement drawing sheets 1-3 have black shaded areas removed. FIG. 5A shows a top view of a mask assembly 140 including a mask frame 143 and a mask 145. FIGS 6A-6E are views of the component parts e.g. mask frame 143 and mask 145 of the mask assembly 140. FIGS. 6A-B depict top and side views of the mask frame 143. FIGS. 6C-6E depict top, side and bottom view of the mask 145.

In view of the submission of replacement drawing sheets 1-3, the applicant's submit that the Examiner's objection thereto has been removed. Thus, the applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

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B. Claims

Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because the word "of" is misspelled as "pf". Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 to replace the words "pf" with the word "of". In view of this amendment to claims 1 and 3, the basis for the Examiner's objection thereto has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS**A. 35 U. S. C. § 102****1. Claims 1-6 are not anticipated by Yamanaka**

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanaka (U. S. Patent 6,637,887 issued October 28, 2003). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a projection system (see, specification at page 1, lines 9-10). The projection system 100 has a plurality of displays 111A, 111B, 111C, 111D arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors 110A, 110B, 110C, 110D, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens 130 (see, specification at FIGS. 3-4 and page 2, lines 20-23). A mask assembly 140 is disposed between and surrounding each lens 130 of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays (see, specification at FIGS. 4-5B and page 2, line 24-28 and page 3, lines 1-6).

Yamanaka describes a multi projector device (see, Yamanaka at column 1, lines 8-11). In Yamanaka, output from a plurality of projectors 1 is combined onto a single screen 3 (see, Yamanaka at FIGS. 2 and 14 and column 8, lines 15-21). Sheet interceptors 5 are positioned to intercept only portions of the light

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paths output from the plurality of projectors 1 (see, Yamanaka at FIG. 2 and column 8, lines 23-30).

Yamanaka does not describe or suggest a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays. Rather, Yamanaka only teaches sheet interceptors positioned to intercept only portions of the light paths output from a plurality of projectors onto a single screen. Since, Yamanaka does not describe or suggest a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays, claim 1 is patentable over Yamanaka.

Claims 2-6 depend either directly, or indirectly, from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-6 are also patentable over Yamanaka.

B. 35 U. S. C. § 103

1. Claim 7 is not obvious over Yamanaka in view of Keelan et al.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanaka (U. S. Patent 6,637,887 issued October 28, 2003) in view of Keelan et al. (U. S. Patent 5,537,166 issued July 16, 1996). The applicants submit that this claim is not rendered obvious by the combination of these references.

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Claim 7 depends indirectly from claim 1 and is directed to a projection system (see, specification at page 1, lines 9-10). The projection system 100 has a plurality of displays 111A, 111B, 111C, 111D arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors 110A, 110B, 110C, 110D, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens 130 (see, specification at FIGS. 3-4 and page 2, lines 20-23). A mask assembly 140 is disposed between and surrounding each lens 130 of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays (see, specification at FIGS. 4-5B and page 2, line 24-28 and page 3, lines 1-6).

Yamanaka describes a multi projector device (see, Yamanaka at column 1, lines 8-11). In Yamanaka, output from a plurality of projectors 1 is combined onto a single screen 3 (see, Yamanaka at FIGS. 2 and 14 and column 8, lines 15-21). Sheet interceptors 5 are positioned to intercept only portions of the light paths output from the plurality of projectors 1 (see, Yamanaka at FIG. 2 and column 8, lines 23-30).

Yamanaka does not describe or suggest a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays. Rather, Yamanaka only teaches sheet interceptors positioned to intercept only portions of the light paths output from a plurality of projectors onto a single screen. Since, Yamanaka does not describe or suggest a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays, claim 7 is patentable over Yamanaka.

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Keelan et al. describes an external aperture on a lens of a slide projector (see, Keelan et al. at FIG. column 1, lines 5-7).

Keelan et al. does not describe or suggest a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays. Rather, Keelan et al. only teaches an external aperture on a lens of a slide projector. Since, Keelan et al. does not describe or suggest a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays, claim 7 is patentable over Keelan et al.

Furthermore, since Yamanaka only teaches only teaches sheet interceptors positioned to intercept only portions of the light paths output from a plurality of projectors onto a single screen and Keelan et al. only teaches an external aperture on a lens of a slide projector, the combination of these references does not describe or suggest applicant's arrangement recited in claim 7. In particular, claim 7 describes a projection system including a plurality of displays arranged adjacent to each other to form a screen, a plurality of projectors, one corresponding to each display of the plurality of displays, wherein each projector includes a lens, and a mask assembly disposed between and surrounding each lens of the plurality of projectors and the corresponding plurality of displays. Thus, claim 7 is patentable over the combination of these references.

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CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102, or obvious under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 103. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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